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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN FUNDY NATIONAL PARK IN 1988

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly survey national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the conditions encountered in Fundy National Park in 1988 are discussed briefly below.

Hardwood Branch Mortality - Severe drought conditions in 1987 resulted in branch mortality of hardwood trees, predominantly sugar maple, in 1988. **Early fall discoloration** of maple was also common in the Park and probably drought-related.

Alder lace bug, a tiny insect that feeds by sucking leaf fluids, causes yellow spotting - more severe feeding causes leaves to turn brown and fall off. Feeding caused severe leaf browning of alders along 45 Mile Road, Shepody Road, and Laverty Motor Trail.

Balsam shootboring sawfly bores into the very young shoots of balsam fir, turning them reddish brown and eventually killing them. The damage appears similar to frost damage but, when opened, the dying shoot will contain small whitish-pink larvae inside. This insect was present at low levels on balsam fir throughout the Park.

Needle cast of spruce, a disease, becomes visible on one-year-old foliage, when needles turn red or brown causing premature needle drop. It was common along Hastings Trail on most young red spruce trees.

Maple spindlegall mite occurred on sugar maple, affecting about 35% of the foliage along the Laverty Trail. It is recognized by the green spike-like growths on the upper leaf surface.

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INSECTS AND DISEASES ■

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Maple leafroller occurred on red maple at low levels at Devils Half Acre. Larvae live inside maple leaves, emerging occasionally to feed on surrounding foliage.

Gypsy moth is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, the northeastern U.S., and, recently, southwestern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia. In 1988, one adult was caught in the 25 traps placed, but no other life stages of the gypsy moth have been found in the Park. The large larvae are recognized by the five pairs of blue and six pairs of red dots along the back, as well as long hairs on all parts of the body. Visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moth to Park personnel.

Spruce budworm is still present in the Park but numbers were very low. Defoliation was practically nil on fir and spruce throughout the Park.

Porcupine damage to balsam fir and spruce continues to be very noticeable throughout the Park, especially along Rte. 114 from Park Headquarters and on Point Wolfe Road from Headquarters to Covered Bridge at Point Wolfe River.

Insects affecting birch - several pests were present on birches in the Park causing various levels of damage:

Birch leafroller which tightly rolls white birch leaves, was present at light levels at several scattered locations in the Park.

Deterioration of white birch - there was only trace leaf browning of birch this year and trees did not deteriorate noticeably from 1987.

Wax filament scale, a small orange-red insect which produces white woolly wax, was present on 57% of trees in a special birch deterioration plot and, at Laverty Trail, 44% of white birch trees were affected.

Birch casebearer and **birch skeletonizer** caused light damage on white birch near Bennett Lake.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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